

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Great Blessing of the Waters



COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Visiting priest Fr. John Steffaro blesses water on the eve of Theophany at Holy Trinity. The next day, members of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit travelled to Beaver Springs to bless Beaver Creek. As part of the outdoor service, Fr. David Smith casts a cross into the water three times in order to sanctify the water and offer all creation back to our Lord.

by Rdr. Evan Kertstetter

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, faithful from the Chapel of the Holy Spirit ventured out into the cold, windy wilderness to commemorate the Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ by blessing a tributary of the Beaver Creek in Beaver Springs, PA.

As Fr. David Smith prayed, and the parish faithful sang, “When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest... O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself, and have enlightened the world, glory to Thee,” the Chapel witnessed to the surrounding community of the saving grace of God at work in the good world that He has made and has redeemed for His glory.

(continued, see BLESSING THE WATERS, page 3)

Strong Orthodox Presence for Life

FOURTEEN PILGRIMS from Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit joined hundreds of Orthodox Christians at the 46th March for Life in Washington, DC last month, an event that marks the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. On the main stage, Metropolitan Tikhon and our hierarch, Archbishop Melchisedek opened the pre-March program in prayer, then met up with the rest of the Orthodox for a memorial service and the 1½-mi. walk up Constitution Avenue. Joining us was Alex Ajar, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more on the Orthodox proclamation of life, see page 2. ■

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Schedules

	COFFEE HOUR	GREETERS	TELLERS	SERVERS
February 3	I. Cadman and J. Rush	I. Cadman and B. Haupt	M. Fedkin and B. Haupt	Team A
February 10	Russian Ladies I	J. Petrengill and S. Petrengill	M. Fiori and D. McNulty	Team B
February 17	A.T. Pelikan and J. Miranda	D. Patel and R. Patel	E. Ashmore and H. Torbic	Team A
February 24	H. Torbic and E. Chawla	J. Cadman and J. Houser	M. Anthony and B. Haupt	Team B
March 3	M. Leathers and A. Ashmore	M. Fedkin, J. Fryncko & L. Swisher	G. Cartell and M. Fiori	Team A
March 10	BLINI/PANCAKE LUNCHEON**	J. Cadman and B. Haupt	M. Fedkin and H. Torbic	Team B

* Denotes scotch/change
** Denotes fast

Team A: Z. Cadman, B. Oleynik, N. Patel, E. Swisher, J. Swisher, and J. Torbic.
Team B: A. Buyanskiy, J. Cadman, N. McFarland, S. Patel, D. Stieckles, and I. Torbic.

Altar Server Captains:
D. Torbic and S. Oleynik

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On the Commitment to Life

by Metropolitan Tikhon

For forty-six years, we have lamented the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States of America. And for forty-six years, those who consider life to be a sacred gift from God have gathered each January in Washington, DC and elsewhere in this nation to proclaim this most sacred gift. Created as we are in the very image and likeness of God, we turn to the One Whom we worship as the “Giver of Life” in thanksgiving for sharing His very life with “every man who comes into the world,” even “from his mother’s womb.”

In our liturgical worship, we continuously acknowledge God as the “Bestower of Life.” And in doing so, we recognize that His precious gift is imparted at the moment of conception—a reality underscored in Luke 1:41, in which we read that John the Baptist “leaped” in his mother Elizabeth’s womb, rejoicing in her encounter with the Mother of God. It has become increasingly evident, however, that proclaiming the sanctity of life involves much more than lamenting the legalization of abortion and protecting the unborn, crucial as these are.

While we so often speak of life “in the womb” and eternal life “beyond the tomb,” there are many related issues that are encountered “in between.” Our commitment to life of necessity extends to care for our infants, our infirm, our elderly—and ourselves. While expressing our concern and offering our prayers for the unborn, we are called to recognize that issues such as the opioid crisis, the cost of quality health care, capital punishment, the marked increase in addictions and suicide, to name but a few, are intimately connected to our recognition and proclamation of God’s gift of life.

Our Christian witness demands not only concern for the unborn, but a sense of responsibility to ensure that living a “life well lived”—seeking the blessedness to which we have been called—extends to the unborn and



Photo Credit: oca.org



TOP: Metropolitan Tikhon leads Orthodox Christian marchers. BOTTOM: Half of the Holy Trinity-Chapel group were students, resembling the thousands of youth who came to proclaim life.

born alike. As we discern the will of God in our own lives, we are called to preserve and protect all life in recognition of God’s plan for His people on this earth and in anticipation of “the life of the world to come.”

As we mark this sorrowful anniversary, may we turn our attention to the “Giver of Life,” Who created us in His ever-abundant love. May we, each in our own way, proclaim His sacred gift. And may we embrace His will, that in all things He and He alone might be glorified as the “Fountain of Life” and the “Light of the world,” Who brings all mankind to that Kingdom which has yet to be fully revealed, but is already fully present in the life of His people, the Church. ■

EDITOR’S NOTE: His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon is the Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada, and as such, is the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).

Chapel of the Holy Spirit

CATEGORY	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
INCOME					
BUDGETED INCOME (<i>Stewardship Offerings</i>)	\$19,335	\$23,906	\$28,098	\$23,400	120%
NON-BUDGETED INCOME					
Building Fund Donations	2,325	1,320	903	—	—
Charitable Income/Other Income	1,030	1,363	2,130	—	—
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$3,355	\$2,683	\$3,033	—	—
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,690	\$26,589	\$31,132	—	—
EXPENSES					
BUDGETED EXPENSES					
Personnel	7,119	6,150	8,650	9,900	87%
Operating Expenses (Liturgical, Office, Christian Ed.)	1,169	1,969	3,743	3,000	125%
Property/Mortgage	3,150	3,682	3,554	4,000	89%
Outreach and Fellowship	1,902	1,707	2,869	4,000	72%
Utilities	1,702	1,849	1,834	2,000	92%
Insurance	367	—	—	500	—
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$15,409	\$15,357	\$20,651	\$23,400	88%
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES					
Building Expenses	11,987	—	—	—	—
Charitable Expenditures/Other Expenses	1,162	375	315	—	—
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$13,149	\$375	\$315	—	—
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$28,558	\$15,732	\$20,966	—	—
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(\$5,868)	\$10,857	\$10,166	—	—



Seven Prospective Seminarians Visit St. Vladimir’s and St. Tikhon’s

Continuing its mission to “Build Up the Church Beyond the Parish,” Holy Trinity sponsored a vocational exploration trip for graduate students and college upperclassmen over the three-day MLK Jr. Weekend. The itinerary included worship, attending classes, guided campus tours, meals with seminarians, and meetings with the President/Dean at both theological schools. The plan is to make this a biannual event, with alternating trips of men and women in odd- and even-numbered years. ■

■ 2018 FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

CATEGORY	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
INCOME					
BUDGETED INCOME					
Stewardship Offerings	\$243,441	\$257,017	\$239,044	\$257,625	93%
Parking	6,037	8,099	6,840	7,200	95%
Candles and Flowers	3,410	3,217	2,918	2,800	104%
Interest Income/ <i>AmazonSmile</i>	85	359	63	—	—
Miscellaneous Income	306	557	1,180	—	—
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$253,279	\$269,249	\$250,045	\$267,625	93%
NON-BUDGETED INCOME					
Fund Income (<i>Bookstore, Building, Memorial, etc.</i>)	60,779	30,684	25,819	—	—
Charitable Appeals Income (<i>Matt. 25, Souper Sun., etc.</i>)	7,167	8,387	37,392	—	—
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$67,946	\$39,071	\$63,211	—	—
TOTAL INCOME	\$321,225	\$308,320	\$313,256	—	—
EXPENSES					
BUDGETED EXPENSES					
Personnel	\$145,490	\$145,129	\$153,669	\$154,578	99%
Mortgage	28,572	28,572	28,572	28,572	100%
Archdiocesan Expenses (<i>Assessment, Assembly, etc.</i>)	20,308	20,147	22,071	23,469	94%
Outreach/Fellowship	9,910	11,634	15,513	10,750	144%
Utilities	8,867	11,973	12,732	12,650	101%
Liturgical	5,889	6,367	9,012	7,350	123%
Office Administration	5,249	3,951	6,239	4,100	152%
Physical Plant	7,026	6,899	5,472	10,300	53%
(<i>Transfer to Property Reserve Fund</i>)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	100%
Insurance	2,892	3,339	3,765	3,339	113%
Licenses/Professional Fees/Bank Charges	2,377	1,712	2,183	2,900	75%
Christian Education	2,930	2,897	2,137	3,600	59%
(<i>Transfer to Discretionary Funds</i>)	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	100%
(<i>Transfer to All-American Council Fund</i>)	1,721	1,000	1,000	1,000	100%
Accessibility Improvements	—	1,482	784	750	105%
Refurbishments	—	415	282	750	38%
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$247,731	\$252,017	\$269,930	\$270,608	100%
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES					
Fund Expenditures (<i>Building, Memorial, etc.</i>)	131,809*	4,109	26,719**	—	—
Charitable Expenditures (<i>Matthew 25, Souper Sun., etc.</i>)	9,834	10,304	32,726	—	—
Adjustments for Prior Year	676	639	1,000	—	—
TOTAL NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$142,319	\$15,052	\$60,445	—	—
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$390,050	\$267,069	\$330,375	—	—
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(\$68,825)	\$41,251	(\$17,119)	(\$2,983)	—

* includes a one-time expense of \$117,521 for Trinity House renovation and accessibility improvements.

** includes a \$4,199 expense to install two new air-handling units in the Nave. The balance (\$8,396) of the \$12,595 charge was paid in Jan. 2019.

Join Matthew 25 this Lent

This month, Holy Trinity's *Matthew 25* ministry will plan a Lenten Drive in order to fulfill our Lord's command to minister to the least among us. Those interested in helping determine the beneficiary as well as other details are invited to attend a meeting at Trinity House on Thursday, February 14 at 4 p.m.

New Faces in the Greeters Ministry

In January the Greeters Ministry was blessed with the addition of three new greeters and the return of an "old hand" to service. Dee and Ravi Patel make up a new team, and Lucy Swisher has joined as a junior greeter. Bruce Haupt returns to the ministry after years of dedicated service as official counter. Look for these smiling faces to give you a warm welcome on your entry to Holy Trinity, and don't hesitate to ask them for information or assistance. Interested in joining the ministry dedicated to making our church a welcoming and supportive spiritual haven? See Melody Thompson or Dn. Alexander Cadman for more information.

New at the Bookstore this Month

Available at the bookstore: incense handmade on Mt. Athos. Available in a variety of scents for \$4-9 a box, they are produced according to the centuries-old tradition of the monasteries on the Holy Mountain.

February Update on Fr. John

Father and Matushka spent an arduous first of the year finishing their move with no time to spare before life in Texas began anew. Already two trips to MDA for cancer treatment in Houston have been made in preparation for a third early this month. Jack is adjusting. And nope, the house is not totally unpacked. We didn't do this to relax, yet, now did we? It'll be a while. Thank you for your prayers. — Fr. John

For the Record

BIRTH

➤ **Lena Jane Neil**, daughter of Curtis & Stasia, granddaughter of Bob & Beth Roberts, born January 28, measuring 6 lbs., 8 oz., and 19" long. **Many years!**

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Blessing the Waters (continued from pg. 1)

As a body of Orthodox Christian believers, we pray that our blessing of the waters will bring the grace of God, a healing of soul and body, and the joy of salvation to the communities amongst whom we live, work, fellowship, and worship. Recalling the Prophecy of Isaiah, we want to encourage our brothers and sisters in the Faith, and also, to remind the world at large, especially those desperately seeking a transformation of life and a renewing of the mind:

Say ye unto the faint-hearted the thought: Be strong, fear not; behold, our God renders judgment, and He will come and save us. Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear. Then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of those who stammer shall speak plainly; for water has burst forth in the desert, and a channel of water in a thirsty land. And the waterless places shall become marshes, and a fountain of water shall be poured into the thirsty land. (Isaiah 35:4-7).

May the grace of our Lord, Who entered the waters of the Jordan to fulfill all righteousness, and in doing so, sanctified His creation and made manifest the Trinity, enter our souls and make manifest His Father and the Holy Spirit in each of us! ■

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Holy Synod Releases Statement on Ukraine

SYOSSET, NY [*oca.org*] — The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) released an encyclical last month concerning the crisis in Ukraine. In it, the Synod denies recognition of the schismatic church and continues to recognize only the canonical Church headed by Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev and All Ukraine. The bishops reaffirmed their call for a pan-Orthodox solution and express the hope that such a process will be initiated by Patriarch Bartholomew. The full archpastoral letter can be read at *oca.org*. ■

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College, unless where noted.
Events listed at **Trinity House** (T.H.) take place at 123 South Sparks Street, in State College.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Third & Sixth Hours, 9:40am)</i>	28	29 Clergy Staff Meeting, 6pm	30 Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	31 <i>(Trinity House Open Late for Students, 2:30pm-11pm)</i>	February 1 Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Candles, 7pm	2 MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE Divine Liturgy, 9am <i>(Hours, 8:40am)</i> Altar Soc. Mtg., 10:30am @ Trinity House Conf. Rm. Great Vespers, 6pm
3 Sunday School, 9am <i>(Locations vary; All classes begin in the Parish Hall.)</i> Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Third & Sixth Hours, 9:40am)</i> OCF Super Bowl Party, 6pm @ Trinity House Atty Lounge	4 Knitting/Crocheting Ministry, 6:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	5 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	6 Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i> Sunday School Teacher Meeting, 6:15pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	7 Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF): Dinner and Prayer Night, 7pm @ Nave & Trinity House Atty Lounge	8 Winter Youth Retreat for Ages 12-17, 6pm (thru Sat. 6pm) @ Christ the Savior, Harrisburg (HTOC group departs 4:30pm)	9 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
10 Zacchaeus Sunday Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Third & Sixth Hours, 9:40am)</i>	11 Young Adult Potluck and Game Night, 6pm @ Trinity House	12 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	13 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	14 Matthew 25 Lenten Drive Organizational Meeting, 4pm @ Trinity House Conference Room Penn State OCF: "Stump the Deacon Night", 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	15 21 New Martyrs of Libya	16 "Orthodoxy and the Scriptures" Symposium, 2pm @ St. Nicholas Church, McKees Rocks (cf. orthodoxpittsburgh.org) Great Vespers, 6pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>
17 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Fast Free Week) Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Parents Session, 12pm Orthodox Youth Assoc. (grades 9-12) Activity, 6pm @ Trinity House	18 Penn State OCF: Annual Presidents Day Card Game Tournament, 7pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	19	20 Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	21 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Prospora Baking Workshop, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	22	23 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
24 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 1st & 2nd Finding of St. John's Head Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Third & Sixth Hours, 9:40am)</i> Sunday School Fun Day, 2pm @ TBD	25	26	27 St. Raphael of Brooklyn Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	28 Penn State OCF: Dinner and Discussion, 7pm @ 122 Pasquerilla Center	March 1	2 Great Vespers, 6pm
3 Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare) Sunday School, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Third & Sixth Hours, 9:40am)</i>	4 Knitting/Crocheting Ministry, 6:30pm @ Trinity House Conference Room	5	6 Vespers, 5:30pm <i>(No Confessions)</i>	7 Choir Rehearsal, 7pm	8	9 Forty Martyrs of Sebaste Great Vespers, 6pm

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 145 North Kern Street in Beavertown, unless where noted.

Friday Feb. 1 Great Vespers/Litiya for the Meeting of the Lord, 6pm	Sunday 17 (cont.) Fellowship and Study of the Orthodox Faith, following CHS Family Fun Night @ Middlecreek Area Community Center, 5-7pm
Saturday 2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Tuesday 19 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Sunday 3 Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	Saturday 23 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Tuesday 5 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Sunday 24 Prodigal Son/1st and 2nd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Orthodox Faith, following
Saturday 9 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Monday 25 "Hats & Blankets for Babies" Knitting Outreach, 6:30pm
Sunday 10 Zacchaeus Sunday Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i> Fellowship and Study of the Orthodox Faith, following	Tuesday 26 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Tuesday 12 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm	Saturday Mar. 2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
Saturday 16 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions	Sunday 3 Last Judgment (Meatfare) Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>
Sunday 17 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee (Fast Free) Divine Liturgy, 10am <i>(Hours, 9:40am)</i>	

February 2019